

NEWS

INDIANA
WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT



For information: Patrick J. Murphy, 317/233-1463
Diane Wieland, 317/232-6699

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Tuesday, July 15, 2003

Workforce Development awards GECOM \$200,000 to train workers

Thanks to an Advance Indiana training grant, 195 workers will be going back to school to earn degrees and gain valuable skills for the workplace.

Frank O'Bannon, Governor
Alan D. Degner, Commissioner

Dept. of Workforce Development
Indiana Government Center South
10 North Senate Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2277
Phone: 317/232-7670
FAX: 317/233-4793
TDD: 317/232-7560
<http://www.workforce.IN.gov>

An Equal Opportunity Employer

The Indiana Department of Workforce Development today awarded a \$200,000 training grant to Greensburg Equipment and Components Manufacturing Corp., Inc. (GECOM), bringing the total to nearly \$1.7 million awarded to businesses in the south eastern part of the state since the Advance Indiana grant program began in 1998.

Advance Indiana grants are a part of Governor Frank O'Bannon's Skills 2016 initiative and focus on the same four industry sectors as his Energize Indiana plan. Those sectors are the life sciences, high tech distribution, information technology and advanced manufacturing.

"New technologies and growing global trade continue to change the nature of Indiana's manufacturing sector and the skills needed to operate highly technical machinery," said Alan Degner, the department's commissioner. "This training will allow GECOM to develop its existing talent to meet the challenges of today's sophisticated workplace."

The project will help 125 workers enter associate degree programs over the next two years and help an additional 70 workers receive apprenticeship training. Students receiving associates will earn degrees in electronics technology, manufacturing technology, industrial technology, computer engineering, electrical engineering, computer information systems, and mechanical engineering technology.

"The skills these workers gain will enable us to continue to be competitive in today's global economy," said William Bolton Jr., GECOM's general manager of human relations and general affairs.

The training also gives workers the opportunity to earn higher wages and provides them with valuable credentials in the manufacturing industry. GECOM is a global manufacturer of door latches, trunk locks, door handles, strikers and other components for leading automotive manufacturers. The company is matching Advance Indiana grant dollars with more than \$300,000 for tuition assistance, and additional resources through on-the-job training.

"We decided that we wanted to grow our own future leadership within the plant. These funds have enabled us to do so much more for our employees than we would have been able to do on our own," said Richard Woodward, corporate trainer at GECOM. "Workers can't wait for college registration days. They've become a celebration day around here."

-more-

Other South Eastern Indiana Advanced Indiana Grant Awards

Belden Wire	Richmond	\$48,000
Dana Corporation Machining Plant	Richmond	Two grants totaling \$49,965
Gecom	Greensburg	\$200,000
KS Bearings	Decatur	Four grants totaling \$49,777
Printpack, Inc.	Greensburg	\$18,000
Ready Machine Tool and Die Corporation	Connersville	\$45,000
River Valley Resources	Madison	\$105,882
Southeastern Indiana Workforce Investment Board	Madison	Two grants totaling \$153,333
Stant Manufacturing Inc	Connersville	\$33,143
Visteon Automotive Systems	Connersville	Six grants totaling \$761,252
Visteon Bedford Plant	Bedford	\$35,230
Wayne County Machine & Tool	Richmond	\$21,757

####